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1945-1970

AUGUST 1945, Viet Nam was in an effervescence from the northernmost to the southernmost of her territory. Scores of millions of people were preparing to deal the coup de grace to colonial domination. Throughout nearly a century the Vietnamese had never ceased rising up in arms to regain their independence and freedom although during these decades, each rebellion had been defeated. August 1945. This time, everyone felt sure of victory. In every village, every quarter, every street, the whole nation was poised for an insurrection.

Then came the never-to-be-forgotten days of August: in a spell of two weeks, from North to South, from the big cities of Hanoi, Saigon and Hue to the remotest villages, a tidal wave rose and swept away the French colonial regime and the pro-Japanese puppet administration like chaff in the wind.

With their own hands the Vietnamese people had effectively recovered their

independence, one that would be solemnly proclaimed on September 2 by a beloved and respected patriot — Ho Chi Minh.

Twenty-five years have passed by since those historic days. The French and the American imperialists have been persistently assaulting the young Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, trying in vain to strangle and destroy all the new structures Vietnamese have been able to build. In the last twenty-five years, the DRVN has not only successfully safeguarded her independence but also succeeded in shaping a new economy, society and culture.

Viet Nam Courier will dedicate many pages in its coming issues to the history and achievements of the DRVN, during these years. To begin with, we give our readers, in a brief chronology of momentous facts and events, a survey of a pregnant historical period.

(See page 4)

SOUTH VIET NAM TOWNSFOLK VERSUS US - PUPPET REGIME

SINCE early this year, all South Viet Nam towns and cities, especially Saigon, have been in the throes of a powerful political agitation for peace, democratic rights and an end to the US war of aggression. Most remarkable have been its continuity and proportions, its most variegated, flexible and creative forms, and participation by large social sections.

ACTIONS BY STUDENTS

THE students and pupils' movement which smoldered in January and February, has flared up quite powerfully since March 11 when the Thieu-Ky-Khiem students including Huynh Tan Nam, acting President of the Saigon Students' Union.

The actions which broke out in Saigon, Hue and Da Nang, spread like a prairie fire to all the urban centres in the South: they were the

strikes of 6,000 medical students in Saigon, of over 30,000 students from fifteen higher education schools in Saigon-Cholon, the general strike of 60,000 students in all South Viet Nam population centres. With the participation of the five Saigon, Van Hanh, Da Lat, Can Tho, Hue universities and 4,000 secondary schools in all South Viet Nam towns, the number of protesters reached over one million.

Apart from meetings, demonstrations, strikes, teach-ins, news conferences, petitions, the students and pupils staged hunger-strikes, "sleepless nights," used motorbikes and other motorized means to transport demonstrators to the "National Assembly," the "Ministry of Education," the "Ministry of Justice," the "Ministry Court," the US Embassy; they booed Nguyen Van Thieu as a "dictator" when he attended the funeral of Phan Khanh Sui (ex-puppet "Head of State"),

and turned it into an anti-US-puppet occasion.

The alarmed Saigon authorities tried bribery, deceit and terror. They ordered the closing of the schools, a prolonged curfew and moved into Saigon and Hue tens of thousands of puppet troops to guard them.

But those measures, far from alleviating the tension

(Continued page 7)

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Saigon students' hunger-strike in protest against the puppet administration repression.

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In this issue:

The DRVN Is 25 Years Old

HEALTH WORK IN THE SERVICE OF THE PEOPLE

(Continued)

Page 3

NEW US AIR RAIDS IN NORTH VIET NAM

ON three consecutive days ending July 25, the US bombed Huong Lap village (north of the demarcation line on the 17 Parallel) with B-52s carrying each 30 tons of bombs.

On July 28, the spokesman of the DRVN Foreign Ministry issued a strong statement against these criminal air strikes.

Inezimating Figures

ON the occasion of the recent debates of the penitentiary regime in South Viet Nam, it has been revealed that:

The US government will earmark next year for perfecting the penitentiary system in South Viet Nam, a sum of 172,000 dollars, 41,000 of which to buy "equipment" (it is assumed this is torture instruments), 77,000 as salary of two US "advisers," 24,000 as costs to send abroad to Saigon "experts" for study. 4,005 new cells will be built and 8,000 detention places projected.

The 108,000-strong police force will receive an additional 9.9 million dollar budget to wipe out the "Vietcong

infrastructure." 1,650 watch-towers have been built which will be raised to 1,849. Of the 9.9 million dollars, 6,761,000 will be used for paying 178 US "advisers" and 45 other foreign ones. All the police experience learnt from the "free world," from the ex-Nazis, the Japanese and the British in Malaysia can, thanks to the dollars, benefit "pacification" in South Viet Nam.

Who pays, who inspires the methods used in South Viet Nam prisons?

The answer is clear: like all that is being done in South Viet Nam, it is always Washington which inspires and funds the bill.



RSVN FOREIGN MINISTER VISITS INDIA

MME Nguyen Thi Binh, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam, arrived on July 22 in New Delhi on an official visit to the Republic of India, at the invitation of Indian Foreign Minister Swaran Singh.

She was welcomed at the airport by Suresh Pal Singh, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, representing the Minister and many other high-ranking officials of the Ministry.

Numerous deputies, leaders of political parties and mass organizations and other Indian VIPs were also present.

Thousands of New Delhians, banners and bouquets in hand, cheered her with slogans: "Long live Ho Chi Minh!", "Heroic Viet Nam will win!", "Down with US imperialist aggressors!"

On July 20, V.V. Giri, President of India, received Mme Binh. She posted him about South Viet Nam's struggle against US invaders and the position of the National Front for Liberation and the PRG of the RSVN in the settlement of the South Viet Nam issue.

US WAR OF AGGRESSION VIOLATED INDOCHINA PEOPLES' NATIONAL RIGHTS

World Lawyers' Congress Points Out

THE 9th Congress of the International Association of Democratic Lawyers was held in Helsinki from July 13 to 19 with the participation of 350 lawyers from 55 countries.

The Congress devoted a special plenary session to the Indochina problem. It heard an opening address by Jue Nordmann, Secretary General of the IADL, and speeches by the delegations of the DRVN, the RSVN, the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia and other delegations.

At its closing session, the Congress unanimously approved a declaration on Indochina and an eleven-point program of action calling on lawyers and people in the world to support the legitimate struggle of the Vietnamese, Lao and Cambodian peoples against the US imperialist aggression and for their national rights.

The Congress unanimously elected the representative of the RSVN one of the Vice-Presidents of the IADL. The Congress stressed in its declaration on Indochina that the criminal war of aggression of the United States violated the fundamental national rights of the peoples of Indochina and menaced peace in Southeast Asia and the whole world; that it irresponsibly supported the just struggle of the South Vietnamese people and the ten-point overall solution of the National Front for Liberation and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the

President V.V. Giri expressed his sympathy with the South Vietnamese people's patriotic fight for freedom and independence.

On the morning of July 22, Indian Vice-President U.S. Tarkhad had an interview with Mme Nguyen Thi Binh.

On the afternoon of the same day, she called on Premier Indira Gandhi.

Mrs Indira Gandhi made clear her support for the South Vietnamese heroic struggle. Mme Nguyen Thi Binh sincerely thanked the Indian Government for its friendly reception and the Indian people for their support for the South Vietnamese just struggle. She handed to Mrs Gandhi a gift from Mr Huynh Tan Phat, President of the PRG of the RSVN.

On July 20 and 21, Mme Nguyen Thi Binh attended the receptions given in her honour respectively by Swaran Singh and K. Menon, ex-Defense Minister, Chairman of the All-India Peace Committee.

On the afternoon of July 23, Mme Nguyen Thi Binh left New Delhi for Mysore to Bangalore (capital of Mysore) and Bombay (capital of Maharashtra).

World TU Conference for Solidarity with Indochina Workers and Peoples

THE World Trade-Union Conference for Solidarity with the Workers and Peoples of Indochina against US Aggression held in Versailles (France) on July 18 and 19 with the participation of 250 delegates representing 65 trade-unions from 60 countries in the world ended in success.

Also represented at the Conference were the World Peace Council, the International Union of Students, the International Democratic Lawyers' Association, the World Federation of Democratic Youth, and the International Organization of Journalists.

After the opening address by Benoit Frachon, President of the French General Confederation of Labour, Pierre Gensou, Secretary General of the WFTU, delivered a speech exposing US intervention and aggression all over the world, especially in Indochina. He spoke of the stirring movement of the workers and other people in various countries including those in the United States and South Viet Nam against this policy of the US.

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He pointed to the imperative tasks of the Conference, namely to condemn the Nixon Administration's intervention and aggression in Indochina, actively support the sensible proposals of the DRVN Government, the RSVN PRG, the Lao Patriotic Front, and the National United Front of Kampuchea for the settlement of the problems. He called on the workers and peoples of the world to expand and step up activities of solidarity with the peoples of Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia morally, politically and materially. He proposed to observe the 2nd of September and the 20th of December this year as days of international solidarity with the peoples in Indochina.

On behalf of the workers and peoples of their respective countries, the heads of the delegations of the DRVN, the RSVN, Laos and Cambodia expressed sincere thanks to the workers and peoples of the world for their sympathy with, and support for, the just struggle of the Indochinese peoples and to the WFTU and the

French General Confederation of Labour for the convocation of the Conference which, they said, was a vivid manifestation of the noble spirit of international solidarity and a great inspiration to the peoples in Indochina.

The Conference also heard 36 other speeches by various delegations.

The delegation of the Italian General Confederation of Labour handed to the head of the Viet Nam Federation of Trade-Unionists a delegation sum of 40 million lire contributed by Italian workers and people in their current "campaign for solidarity with the Vietnamese workers and people."

The delegation of the Madagascar Federation of Trade-Unionists also presented the Vietnamese delegates with a small but meaningful sum of 300 francs.

At its closing session on July 19, the Conference unanimously passed a general resolution, an appeal to the workers and trade-unions in the world, a message to the workers and people of Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia, and a message to the workers and people of the United States of America.

The Conference in particular called on the workers and trade-unions of the world to further intensify and enlarge their activities of moral and political support for the Indochinese peoples, to join forces and efforts to make irresistible the strength of the trans-union movement of solidarity, to find and adopt the most efficacious forms of action in each country such as meetings, demonstrations, strikes, including boycott and refusal to handle arms and other war material of the American aggressors bound for the dirty war in Indochina, to enhance material support by increasing the collections of funds, medicines, cloth, transport and communication means, foods and school material, to organize this year a campaign in support of the peoples in Indochina beginning July 20, anniversary of the signing of the Geneva Agreements.

77th Plenary Session of Paris Conference on Viet Nam (July 30, 1970)

DRVN Delegate Outlines a Solution to Viet Nam Problem

MR Nguyen Van Tien (RSVN) denounced US schemes to perpetuate military occupation of South Viet Nam and to deny the South Vietnamese the right to self-determination. Mr Nguyen Van Tien (DRVN) pointed out that the American aggressors and their Saigon henchmen had of late piled up new crimes against the Indochinese peoples. Scoring the recent great successes of the Vietnamese, Cambodian

and Lao peoples, he stated: "The United States must promptly and unconditionally pull out all its troops and those of its satellites from South Viet Nam, discard the dictatorship, bellicose and corrupt Thieu-Ky regime, disavow and accept the suggested provisional coalition government which will be entrusted with the organization of free and democratic elections in South Viet Nam."

2-9-1945 2-9-1970

The D.R.V.N. is 25 Years Old

HEALTH WORK in the Service of the People

DR NGUYEN VAN HUONG
DRVN Health Minister

(Continued)

WHAT made possible such results within a decade? First, a vast sanitary network covering towns and country, in which the poorest peasant could profit from its blessings; then new cadres who worked in close co-operation with thousands of herbalists, and finally our scientific researches adjusted to our national conditions.

While, under colonialism, communal health installations were non-existent, there were 300 rural medical stations in 1955 and 5,286 in 1964; in nearly all the villages in the delta and 80 per cent of villages in the mountain region. These stations are adequately equipped to deal with minor cases. Each of them is run by from two to four nurses or midwives. At the end of 1964, they were reinforced by 2,320 assistant-doctors, plus tens of thousands of medical workers working in agricultural co-operatives.

Workshops, mines, construction yards, state agricultural farms and forest enterprises have their own medical establishments. Whereas in 1956 there were 25 hospitals and infirmaries with 1,020 beds for the workers, in 1964 the number of hospitals and infirmaries was 183 and that of beds was 6,136.

Besides the State health network, the Traditional Medical Association runs a dual system in the provinces and districts in the delta. Over 18,000 herbalists operate in the health units in the countryside and urban centres. They have contributed a great deal to diagnosis and therapy as well as to the manufacture of medicines.

The Red Cross at all levels and sanitariums at co-operatives and workshops have rendered very useful service.

Clinics and hospitals have been mushrooming. Each provincial or district capital has its own medical establishment; the number of beds has increased 16 times in ten years.

The thorny problem of formation of professional cadres was resolved according to the following principles:

— crash training;
— use of many methods: regular classical formation, refresher courses run on a continued basis or by stages (a nurse trained in 3 months is promoted to a higher course six or nine months later), or by correspondence.

Thanks to these methods, we have never run short of medical workers at the front and in the rear. The well-advised alliance with

traditional medicine as well as the practice of acupuncture have made possible to cure many current diseases with galvanics.

With regard to research, we have striven to apply up-to-date scientific realizations to our practical conditions. For instance we have tackled the production of dead BCG vaccine — easier to transport — without need for refrigeration and other equipment which are now lacking, replaced antibiotics with the bacillus disseminated many vegetable antibiotics and manufactured the Sabin Choumakov vaccine.

Our researchers have paid keen attention to traditional medicine, discovered and applied specific prophylactic and therapeutic methods chiefly by utilizing many newly discovered medicinal plants. Of course the treatments used in other countries are not neglected; these have enabled our researchers to achieve successes in operations on the heart, lungs and liver, as well as on pharyngo-laryngeal cancers.

After 1965, savage US bombings forced us into an important reorganization of our work.

We strengthened our basic network and organized first aid at all levels, beginning with production brigades in the agricultural production. Under the slogans: "Strengthen the frontlines" and "Teach emergency surgery to all medical hands," we succeeded little by little in turning our grass-roots units into first-aid stations capable of meeting most urgent needs.

While in 1964, there were still inadequacies in the medical network at agricultural co-operative level, by the end of 1964 most of co-ops had had a medical worker; about 50 per cent had a first-aid station. In the provinces in the 4th Military Zone, chiefly in Vinh Linh and Quang Binh,

Bombs fell at random on our towns and villages, destroying markets, churches, schools, hospitals, killing women, children and old people. In few years, most of the provincial and district hospitals as well as a great number of rural medical stations suffered heavy damage. Over 600 big establishments were destroyed, including the Quynh Lap leprosanatorium and the Thanh Hoa tuberculosis sanatorium. Hundreds of patients fell victims to bombs and the hospital personnel, doctors included, took heavy casualties.

It was not by chance that nearly all our medical establishments were the targets of violent US air raids. The intention of the US command was left in no doubt: while killing civilians, it wanted to deprive us of the means to rescue them and to demoralize them. The calculation was vicious but the hope was illusory. Our cadres as well as people were not cowed. Responding to President Ho Chi Minh's appeal: "Nothing is more precious than independence and freedom," they fearlessly fought back the US air force and took appropriate steps to reduce our losses to the minimum.

We rapidly shifted from the state of peace to the state of war, and readjusted our organization to the most unexpected situations in order to help production and the fighting at any cost.

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progress in this has been the greatest. All the agricultural co-operatives in Quang Binh province have their own medical group.

The rural medical stations have also been greatly extended, thanks chiefly to better equipment. From 5,286 in 1964, they numbered 6,041 in 1968, or 17 per cent of villages in North Viet Nam. Seventy per cent of them are run by assistant-doctors. In Quang Binh province and Vinh Linh area, in particular, all the rural medical stations are headed by an assistant-doctor, some by two or three. All the villages possess a permanent pharmacy and many medicine chests.

Thanks to an adequate organization, we were not outstripped by US super-sonic planes. All the wounded received first aid and 60 per cent of them were immediately operated upon in the villages.

District hospitals have been adequately equipped and staffed to handle ordinary surgical operations as well as obstetrical operations and emergency operations of war wounds. All the districts had been provided with such establishments by the end of 1968 as against 37 per cent only in 1964.

As after March 31, 1968, the Yankees have been focusing their attacks on provinces located south of the 16th Parallel, the district hospitals and rural medical stations there have been playing the leading role in the help given to the wounded.

The setting up of a vast medical network reaching down to villages has proved to be quite efficient. No doubt that the lack of such a network in peace time would have caused us heavier losses in war time.

Guided by the "preserve human lives" watchword of the people's war, we have

(Continued page 7)

* A village consists in general of 4 or 5 hamlets which are organized each into an agricultural co-operative.



A rural maternity home

FROM AUGUST REVOLUTION TO DIEN BIEN PHU VICTORY

CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS (1945-1954)



Revolution they could now enjoy equal rights with the majority people in all fields.

1946

January:
6 - General elections were held: 90% of the electors went to the polls. President Ho Chi Minh was elected in Hanoi with 109,222 votes (98.4 per cent of the total cast).

March:
2 - First session of the Viet Nam National Assembly: Ho Chi Minh was elected President of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and entrusted with the task of setting up a new government.
6 - A preliminary agreement was signed between President Ho Chi Minh and Sainteny, representative of the French Government.
27 - The French occupied by force the Finance Service in Hanoi.

April:
8 - General Valluy, Commander-in-Chief of the French forces in Northern Indochina, sent his troops directives for the reconquest of Viet Nam.

17 - The Preparatory Franco-Vietnamese Conference opened in Dalat. Its central problem was Nam Bo. For the Vietnamese delegation, Nam Bo was an integral part of Viet Nam; on the contrary, the French wanted to separate it from Viet Nam. After a month of vain discussions, no agreement was reached.

23 - The French colonials sent to Paris a puppet delegation to prepare for the constitution of an "Autonomous Cochinchinese Government."

25 - The Lien Viet Front (Vietnamese People's National Union) was founded.

27 - The Vietnamese General Confederation of Labour was founded.

31 - A delegation of the Vietnamese Government led by Pham Van Dong left for Paris to hold official negotiations with the French.

On the same day, President Ho Chi Minh took the plane for an official visit to France.

June:
1 - The (puppet) Cochinchinese Government was set up by the French.

July:
6 - Franco-Vietnamese talks were held in Fontainebleau on:

- the place of Viet Nam in the French Union and her international relations;

- the organization of the Indochinese Federation;

- the unification of the three Ky (Tonkin, Annam and Cochinchina) and the referendum to be held in Nam Bo for its reintegration into Viet Nam;

- economic problems concerning Viet Nam and France;

- the working out of a Franco-Vietnamese treaty.

The stands of the two parties were irreconcilable: for the French, Viet Nam remained in the French Union and depended on France in

all fields: military, foreign affairs, etc. On the contrary, for the Vietnamese, Viet Nam, while remaining in the French Union, was a free and sovereign country, and Nam Bo was an integral part of Viet Nam.

August:

1 - The French convened at Dalat a "Federal Conference of Peoples" (Cochinchina, Laos and Cambodia). As a sign of protest, the Vietnamese delegation walked out of the Fontainebleau Conference.

September:

10 - Negotiations were resumed in Fontainebleau. The French delegation put forward a draft agreement with clauses unacceptable to its interlocutors.

10 - The French launched Operation "Léa" against Viet Bac, seeking to annihilate the leading organs of the Vietnamese Resistance.

10 - During the negotiations, the French had intensified their sending of troops to Indochina.

14 - President Ho Chi Minh, staying on in Paris after the departure of the Vietnamese delegation, signed with the French Government a moratorium on monetary, cultural and economic questions and on the ceasefire in Nam Bo. A Franco-Vietnamese conference was scheduled for early 1947 to discuss the questions at issue.

October:

10 - The Viet Nam Women's Union was founded.

20 - The Viet Nam National Assembly adopted the Constitution of the DRVN and set up a new government presided over by Ho Chi Minh.

30 - The Vietnamese forces alone by the September 14 modus vivendi and stopped fighting in Nam Bo. On the contrary, on November 10, the French forces launched attacks on all fronts.

November:

10 - Nguyen Van Thinh, President of the puppet Cochinchinese government, committed suicide.

20 - The French bombarded Haiphong, causing over 6,000 deaths.

23 - French troops occupied Lang Son (on the Sino-Vietnamese frontier).

December:

7 - The French carried out a massacre at Vernicollet Street in Hanoi, causing scores of deaths.

18 - French troops occupied the Finance Service in Hanoi.

The Hanoi population resisted.

- President Ho Chi Minh proposed to French Premier Louis Luman a settlement and suggested the sending of a French delegation to Viet Nam as a prelude to future negotiations. His letter was not answered.

- General Molle, sent an ultimatum to the Vietnamese Government demanding that Vietnamese forces be disbanded.

19 - The Party Central Committee decided to launch the nation-wide Resistance.

At 8.30 p.m. in Hanoi, nation-wide Resistance started.

20 - President Ho Chi Minh issued an appeal to the people: "We would rather sacrifice all than lose our country and live as slaves."

1947

February:
17 - After two months of fighting, the "Regiment of the Capital" whose mission was to pin down the French in Hanoi withdrew.

March:
9 - Bollaert was appointed High Commissioner in Indochina.

May:
12 - Paul Mus, Bollaert's special envoy, met President Ho Chi Minh and presented to him the "conditions of the French Government for an armistice" which were only the demand for capitulation. The Vietnamese Government refused.

October:

10 - The French launched Operation "Léa" against Viet Bac, seeking to annihilate the leading organs of the Vietnamese Resistance.

December:

19 - Operation "Léa" ended. On the French side, 3,300 soldiers had been killed, 18 airplanes, 255 vehicles, 16 rivercraft destroyed.

The Vietnamese *dong* was put in circulation. This monetary measure was an integral part of the new economic policy of the DRVN following the August 1945 Revolution.

1948

January:
15 - The Party Central Committee assessed the situation: After our victory in Viet Bac, the National Resistance had switched over to the stage of equilibrium of forces.

February:

14 - The French launched a large-scale attack on the Plain of Reeds (Nam Bo).

March:
1 - At Langa (Nam Bo) the Vietnamese forces destroyed 50 armoured vehicles and killed 150 enemy troops.

16 - The People's Army launched (campaign Nghia Lo (North-West of Bac Bo). The French troops evacuated 7 posts.

April:

19 - Tam Vu battle in Nam Bo: 200 French soldiers killed and 14 armoured vehicles destroyed.

June:
5 - A preliminary convention was signed between the puppet Nguyen Van Xuan and Bollaert: a puppet government would be created for the whole of Viet Nam.

19 - A patriotic emulation drive was launched: President Ho Chi Minh called on the people to consolidate national unity, step up production and fight even better.

October:

8 - The North-East Campaign (in Bac Bo) was launched by the People's Army.

21 - Pignon replaced Bollaert as High Commissioner.

1949

March:
9 - An agreement was signed between Bao Dai and Vincent Auriol: "solemnly recognizing the independence of Viet Nam." In fact, "independent" Viet Nam remained a French neo-colony.

April:

29 - The French forces attacked Phu Tho - Tuyen (young to hinder the advance of the Vietnamese forces to the Midlands). The People's Army riposted in launching a campaign along the River Lo, inflicting a heavy defeat on the French.

May:
General Revers, Chief-of-Staff of the French Army, proposed that the front be shortened and the Bac Bo delta consolidated.

June:
2 - Failure of a French large-scale offensive in the Plain of Reeds (Nam Bo).

July:
14 - Decrees were promulgated on the reduction of land rent and interest rate and on the provisional distribution to the poor peasants of land formerly belonging to the French colonialists and Vietnamese traitors.

August:

9 - The French evacuated Bac Bo (Viet Bac).

October:

16 - The French occupied Phat Diem, one of the bastions of the Catholic Church in Bac Bo.

1950

January:
9 - In Saigon 25,000 persons attended the funeral of school-pupils killed by the puppet police: January 9 became the national day of struggle of students and school-pupils in Viet Nam.

18 - The USSR, People's China and the other socialist countries recognized the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam.

The Vietnamese commando units attacked Bac Mai airfield (on the Hanoi outskirts) and destroyed 25 airplanes.

The Saigon workers staged great strikes.

February:

2 - The Party's 3rd National Conference decided to "complete preparations to switch over to the stage of general counter-offensive."

7 - The USA and Great Britain recognized the Bao Dai puppet State.

8 - The People's Army launched (campaign Phan Dinh Phung (North-East of Bac Bo).

12 - The watchword "Everything for the Front, Everything for Victory" was launched to mobilize all the national forces.

March:
19 - The Saigon population demonstrated against the arrival of American warships in Saigon.

May:
15 - The People's Army launched (campaign Phan Dinh Phung (Trung Bo) lasting 2 months.

July:
The People's Army launched Campaign Dacac in the High-Plateaux (Trung Bo).

September:

16 - The People's Army launched the Sino-Vietnamese Frontier Campaign.

November:
5 - In the Sino-Vietnamese Frontier Campaign 9 French battalions with 11,500 men were annihilated, 4,000 sq.km region with 350,000 inhabitants was liberated. The Sino-

Vietnamese frontier was fully opened and the scheme of isolating the DRVN was frustrated. General De Lattre was urgently dispatched to Indochina (as Commissioner and Commander-in-Chief) to save the situation.

1951

January:
7 French battalions were annihilated in Campaign Tran Hung Dao launched by the People's Army on December 20, 1950.

February:
11 - The Party's 2nd National Congress was held. The Communist Party from now on became the Viet Nam Workers' Party.

March:
2 - The Viet Minh Front merged with the Lien Viet Front.

April:
7 - End of the Hoang Hoa Thám Campaign launched on March 20 along Road No 19 (Bac Bo) by the P.A. A French counter-offensive resulted in 2,021 French troops being killed and 1,025 others wounded or taken prisoner.

May:
1 - Promulgation of a system of unified agricultural tax, collected in kind and replacing all former taxes and contributions.

The National Bank was founded. It issued a banknote - the new *dong*, worth 10 old *ongs*.

The State Trade Service was organized.

June:
20 - End of the Quang Trung Campaign launched on May 28 by the P.A. in Ninh Binh (Bac Bo): more than 3,000 French troops were killed.

July:
15 - Bao Dai promulgated a decree on "general mobilization" to create a puppet "national army."

A "De Lattre belt" (no man's land) started to be built along the De Lattre line. It was a zone from 5 to 10 km wide, where all dwelling houses were destroyed, encircling the Bac Bo delta.

September:
The French launched great mopping-up operations in Hung Yen and Thai Binh (Bac Bo) to try and check the ever-growing guerrilla movement.

November:
14 - French mobile groups were sent to Ninh Binh-Thanh Hoa (Bac Bo). The operation lasted nearly one month and cost the French 2,650 killed and 1,170 others taken prisoner.

December:
18 - In his reply to the Swedish paper *Expressen*, President Ho Chi Minh wrote: "...If after drawing lessons from those war years, the French Government wants to conclude an armistice and solve the Viet Nam question by negotiations, the people and Government of the DRVN are ready to consider the French proposals... the basis of an armistice is that the French Government should really respect the independence of Viet Nam. The negotiation of an armistice concerns essentially the Government of France and that of Viet Nam."

1952

February:
28 - End of the Hoa Binh Campaign. On the two fronts, 22,000 French soldiers had been put out of action. The French Expeditionary Corps had to fall back on the defensive.

March:
10 - Salan replaced De Lattre and concentrated his forces in the Bac Bo delta: during the year 1952 he launched great mopping-up operations.

May:
1 - National Congress of Elite Fighters.

July:
6 - The enemy launched great mopping-up operations in Thua Thien (Trung Bo) aimed at rounding up Vietnamese youth to reinforce the puppet army.

The 2nd European battalion of the French Expeditionary Corps demanded its repatriation.

October:
14 - The P.A. launched the North-West Campaign lasting more than one month and resulting in 13,500 enemy troops being killed, and a 25,000 sq. km area with 250,000 inhabitants liberated. The French scheme to set up a "Thai Autonomous State" was foiled. The French forces withdrew to Nasan.

1953

January:
14 - Winter-Spring Military Campaign in the 5th Interzone (Trung Bo).

25 to 30 - The Party Central Committee defined the main tasks for 1953, one of which was to mobilize the masses to complete land reform and the reduction of land rent.

Salan once more tried to carry out his policy of "pacification" of the Bac Bo delta by launching a series of great mopping-up operations.

April:
14 - Upper-Laos Campaign: in co-ordination with Vietnamese volunteers, Pathet Lao forces liberated Sam Neua province (28,500 sq.km).

May:
8 - Navarre replaced Salan.

20 - An American military mission arrived in Indochina.

July:
17 - The "Navarre plan" started to be applied: a paratroops battalion was sent to Lang Son (Bac Bo); 4 infantry battalions landed in Tien Yen and met it on Road No 14. Three days later, the French had to withdraw.

August:
6 - The French evacuated Nasan (North-West of Bac Bo).

15 - 5 French mobile groups were sent to Ninh Binh-Thanh Hoa (Bac Bo). The operation lasted nearly one month and cost the French 2,650 killed and 1,170 others taken prisoner.

November:
14 - The Party Central Committee took a decision on the carrying out of land reform starting from 1954.

20 - Navarre sent paratroopers to Dien Bien Phu.

26 - In his reply to the Swedish paper *Expressen*, President Ho Chi Minh wrote: "...If after drawing lessons from those war years, the French Government wants to conclude an armistice and solve the Viet Nam question by negotiations, the people and Government of the DRVN are ready to consider the French proposals... the basis of an armistice is that the French Government should really respect the independence of Viet Nam. The negotiation of an armistice concerns essentially the Government of France and that of Viet Nam."

December:
1 - The National Assembly adopted the Law on Land Reform.

2 - Navarre decided to "accept the North-West battle - The defense of the North-West will be concentrated on Dien Bien Phu."

12 - Liberation of the provincial capital of Lai Chau.

21 - The Pathet Lao forces launched an attack on Thakhet (Middle Laos) which was liberated on December 25. Navarre sent 12 mobile battalions to Somo (Laos).

1954

January:
20 - 22 French battalions landed in Phu Yen and Tuy Hon (Trung Bo).

23 - The Viet Nam High Command reported on launching an offensive in the High Plateaux to attract the main body of French forces and intensify guerrilla warfare in the plain region of the 5th Interzone. The whole of Kontum province (14,000 sq.km) was liberated.

26 - Pathet Lao forces launched the Upper-Laos Campaign, forcing Navarre to scatter still more his mobile forces.

31 - In Lower Laos, Pathet Lao forces attacked Attopeu and liberated the Holovon High Plateaux.

February:
7 - The American General O'Daniel visited Dien Bien Phu.

18 - Closing of the Berlin Conference: the Indochina question would be discussed at a conference to be held in Geneva in April.

March:
12 - 2nd stage of French Operation Atlantic: landing in Qui Nhon.

13 - Opening of the Dien Bien Phu battle which went through 3 stages: the first offensive lasting from March 13 to 20; the 2nd offensive from March 30 to April 30; and the general offensive from May 1 to 7.

In Paris, the War Committee met to study Operation Vautour which was meant to clear the way for direct American intervention (by the participation of US heavy bombers in the Dien Bien Phu battle).

April:
26 - Opening of the Geneva Conference on Korea and Indochina.

27 - Launching by the French of Operation Concor in Laos.

May:
7 - The French garrison at Dien Bien Phu surrendered.

8 - The Geneva Conference discussed the Indochina question.

The first drive of land reform was launched in late May.

June:
19 - Mendia-France replaced Daniel, who had been overthrown on June 8, as Head of the new French Government.

During June, French troops evacuated the principal centres of the Bac Bo delta.

July:
21 - Signing of the Geneva Agreements which put an end to the war in Indochina.

Forthcoming Chronology of events (1954-1970)

Thai Reactionaries Must Give Up Their Armed Aggression Against Cambodia and Their Scheme To Set Up a US-Fostered Military Alliance

— DRVN Foreign Ministry's July 29 Statement on Commitment of Thailand Troops to Cambodia

ON the order, the Thailand reactionary authorities have of late supplied the Lao Noi - Sinh Matak clique with a large quantity of weapons and other war means. They have mounted air bombings and strafings against the Cambodian territory, committed Thai of Khmer origin under the "volunteer" label to the aggression in Cambodia, and dispatched Thai regular troops to occupy part of Preah Vihear province there. At present the Thailand Phaphas reactionary clique is feverishly preparing for more Thai troops to be sent there and joining hands with the Thien-Ky-Khiem, Lao Noi - Sinh Matak and US stooges in Laos to set up the US-Schemed Suvan - Phnom Penh - Bangkok - Vientiane military alliance against the patriotic effort of the peoples of the countries in this area.

Everybody knows that, for years now, the Thanon - Phaphas reactionary clique, henchmen of the US, has sought every possible means to sabotage the independence, peace and neutrality of Cambodia, fostered the "Khmer Secret" traitors and helped them to stay there in Battambang area from which to carry out their subversive activities in Cambodia. This time, while brazenly invading Cambodia, they have alleged the "danger of aggression" against Thailand from "North Viet Nam and Viet Cong" to cover up their own aggressive acts. It is obvious that the Thai reactionaries are serving Nixon's expansion of the war of aggression to the whole of Indochina and policy of "making Asians fight Asians" while trying to realize their ambition of occupying part of the Cambodian territory.

In introducing aggressive troops into Cambodia, the Thanon-Phaphas reactionary clique are grossly in breach of the independence, neutrality, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of Cambodia, breached the 1954 Geneva Agreement on Indochina and all international law. In so doing they are defying the opinion of the people and many political figures in Thailand who are ever more vigorously critical of the introduction of Thai troops into Cambodia. This is an arrogant challenge to the Cambodian and other peoples of Indochina and world public opinion upon answered by the US

imperialists and their henchmen's extension of the war of aggression to the whole of Indochina. Having sold out the Thai people's blood to their US masters in the Nam and Laos, and now sending Thai youth into Cambodia to die in place of the US aggressors and pushing Thailand into an enlarged war hindered by the US, the Thanon-Phaphas clique is going deeper into the road of betraying the interests of the Thai people, exposing themselves as obedient henchmen of the US imperialists against the peoples of Indochina. In deploying aggressive troops into Cambodia, the Thai reactionaries and the US stooges in Saigon definitely could not stage off the Lao Noi - Sinh Matak clique's complete collapse, and would receive due punishment from the Cambodian people now rallying within the National United Front of Kampuchea under the leadership of Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, Head of State of Cambodia. For the sake of peace in Southeast Asia and the world, for the sake of Thailand's independence and the friendship and good neighborhood with the three peoples of Indochina, the Thai people will, in ever greater contempt for Thai reactionaries, oppose them even more resolutely. The more crimes the US imperialists and the Thai reactionaries commit against the peoples of Indochina, the more the Thai peoples will strengthen their solidarity and resolve to fight till complete victory.

The DRVN Government fully supports the sensible position expounded in the July 23, 1970 statement of the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia which strongly condemned and sternly warned the Thai authorities of the consequences of their introducing aggressive troops into Cambodia and pushing up the formation of a military alliance with the US henchmen in Phnom Penh, Saigon and Vientiane.

The Vietnamese people and the DRVN Government insist that the Thanon-Phaphas clique give up at once their acts of armed aggression against Cambodia and their scheme to set up a military alliance with the US lackeys in Indochina.

Should they obstinately embark on military adventures to serve the US war of aggression in this area, they would certainly meet with ignominious failure.

Military Operations in Cambodia

THE Svay Rieng province regional forces and guerrillas raided on the night of July 4 a garrison defending a bridge to the provincial capital. It was blown up and some thirty troops were put out of action.

In Preah Vihear province nearly 240 Phnom Penh soldiers crossed over on July 6 and 7 to the ranks of patriotic forces, carrying with them over 200 fire-arms of different types. On July 6 the patriotic forces seized an arms dump of hundreds of weapons including recoilless guns and heavy machine-guns.

On July 5 the Stung Treng liberation forces downed one US-Saigon aircraft over the provincial capital. The National Liberation Armed Forces of Cambodia attacked on the night of July 10 and in the daytime of July 11 four important sections occupied by the

enemy in Kirirrom and defended by three infantry battalions No. 90, 92 and 3, together with the sub-sector CP, the barracks-building sector, the sector of arsenal and that of puppet administration office. They wiped out three battalions, put out of action more than 1,200 enemy troops and gained complete control of these sectors; moreover they captured scores of tons of armaments, embrodding, fuses, mortars, recoilless guns and 75mm guns and 12.8mm machine-guns.

On the other hand the regional forces and guerrillas fought the enemy out of five posts in the vicinity of Kirirrom.

On the following days from July 12 to 15 the NLAIF fought off all reinforcements, inflicting hundreds of adverse casualties.

News from LAOS CAMBODIAN DELEGATION Visits Lao Liberated Zone

AT the invitation of the Central Committee of the Lao Patriotic Front (LPPF), a delegation of the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia and the National United Front of Kampuchea (FUNK) paid a friendship visit to the Lao liberated zone from July 19 to 25.

The Cambodian delegation, headed by Dr Ngo Hou, Minister of Public Health and Religious and Social Affairs, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the FUNK, and General Duong Sam Ol, Minister of Military Equipment and Armaments, member of the Political Bureau of the CC of the FUNK, consisted of Prince Norodom Yuvaneath, son of Samdech Head of State Norodom Sihanouk, and FUNK member: Sien An, FUNK CC member, ambassador to the DRVN; Heng Rich, Under-Secretary of State for Military Equipment and Armaments, FUNK CC member; and Dr. Koam Leang Has, Under-Secretary of State for Public Health and Religious and Social Affairs.

A reception committee headed by Noubak Phoumy Savan, member of the Standing Bureau of the CC of the LPPF, welcomed the delegation on their arrival in the Lao liberated area, the Cambodian delegation called on Prince Souphanouvong, President of the CC of the LPPF, and the DRVN Government.

During its stay in the Lao liberated area, the Cambodian delegation called on Prince Souphanouvong, President of the CC of the LPPF, and the DRVN Government.

LPF Central Committee Spokesman Protests British Government's Breach of the 1962 Geneva Agreements

THE spokesman for the Central Committee of the Lao Patriotic Front has made public a statement condemning the British Government's recent breach of the 1962 Geneva Agreements on Laos, RPKI reported. The statement, dated July 16, 1970, said: "Over the recent past, particularly since Nixon took office, the US imperialists and their lackeys have been stepping up their special war against Laos to a unprecedented degree of ferocity. The Soviet Government in its capacity as a Co-Chairman of the Geneva Conference on Laos has many times protested against these acts of the US and its henchmen. On the contrary, the British Government, the other Co-Chairman of the Geneva Conference, has been winking at US war escalation scheme in Laos.

"In fact, the repeated acts of the US and its agents in their war escalation in Laos, Prince Souphannou Phoumy recently sent a message to the two Co-Chairmen of the Geneva Conference on Laos in which he distorted the truth and tried to justify US intervention and aggression and put the blame on the Lao Patriotic Front and the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam.

"In its capacity as a Co-Chairman of the Geneva Conference, the Soviet Government has protested against such a move of the British Government.

"The Lao Patriotic Front Central Committee warmly welcomes the truth and the just policy of the Soviet Government. It severely condemns the British Government's unlaughable and illegal move as completely invalid."

(Continued from page 3)

established thick civil defence network. Communication trenches and underground shelters have enabled our people to work in safety. In Vientiane village (Quang Ninh district, Quang Binh province), they have built thousands of underground shelters for the farmers working in the ricefields.

Our second achievement has been a strong impulse given to the hygiene and prophylactic movement. In 1960 and 1967, we sank wells and built bath-rooms and latrines 4 times as many as in the ten years of peace.

We have turned out all

the necessary vaccines and given preventive inoculations to all the inhabitants. In these four years, despite the existence of pockets of epidemics (cholera, plague) in neighbouring countries, North Viet Nam was completely immune.

Our third accomplishment has been a network of distribution of medicines and of therapeutics going down to villages. The needs of the fighting have been met to the maximum. The cultivation and use of local medicinal plants have proved of great help.

Despite the fierceness of US air raids, we have stepped up the production of drugs. Twenty-five local factories have been commissioned. Despite the havoc wrought by typhoons

and floods, and daily enemy bombing, many of the hospitals, such as in Quang Binh and Ha Tinh, managed to raise their production in quantity and quality. A thorough researches, our health service has contributed a worthy part to the victory of the entire people.

Our fourth success has been the training of a sufficient number of cadres entirely tested, qualified, courageous and devoted to the people. Sanitarians, midwives, nurses, assistant-doctors, physicians and hospital hands, all have rendered distinguished services to the Fatherland. In the fulfilment of their mission, they have shown revolutionary heroism and self-sacrifice, under the enemy's bombing, for the good of the patients. In this respect the hospital personnel in

Vinh Linh, (Quang Binh), Nghe An, Ha Tinh, Thanh Hoa among others, have distinguished themselves most particularly. Thus by practice and thorough researches, our health service has contributed a worthy part to the victory of the entire people.

We have built our services through a long struggle against foreign aggression which has been devastating our country for more than a quarter of a century.

Not only have we started from scratch to offset the shortage of cadres and materials, but we have overcome all kinds of su-

perstitions and old habits. All this has been done despite the destruction wrought by two successive invasions. At present, thanks to our experience and revolutionary spirit, we are sure that, under the clearheaded leadership of the Viet Nam Workers' Party, the Public Health Service will continue through thick and thin to be equal to the heavy task entrusted to it.

For more complete information on health care in the DRVN since the last 25 years, please read VIETNAMESE STUDIES special issue on this subject

SOUTH VIET NAM TOWNSPEAK...

(Continued from page 1)

as hoped for, were but oil poured on the flames of the students and pupils, chiefly since Thieu joined hands with the Lon Nol-Matak gang in raising and recruiting thousands of Vietnamese residents in Cambodia and an aggression against that country.

The indignant school youth swarmed into the streets against the US aggressors and their lackeys, the traitors Thien-Ky-Khiem. They set up altars, were mourning for the Vietnamese victims in Cambodia, and occupied the building of the former Cambodian Embassy and used it as HQ for their ten-day campaign.

Their slogans were: "We oppose terror and repression!", "Release the students illegally detained!", "End the war, restore peace!", "End the war, restore peace!", "Bunker, go home!", "Down with Lon Nol-Matak, murderers of Vietnamese residents in Cambodia!", "There're limits to Vietnamese lives, but no end to American bombs!", "Peace must be restored to save our country!"

Their stubborn and unrelenting struggle was staunchly supported by all sections of the townspeople including soldiers, policemen, MPs and students, and the US puppet regime.

Under its impact, on June 13 the Thien-Ky-Khiem clique was forced to release some students on bail, including Huynh Tan Nam, to postpone the trial of some of their mates before a military court, recognize the Students' General Association, put at its disposal a building as HQ and order the rubber-stamp "National Assembly" to elaborate a draft bill on the autonomy of universities.

On the other hand, they split and sap the students and pupils' effort. On July 4, Thieu went to the length of threatening it with the use of force and of deciding to

maintain compulsory military training for students.

Immediately, meetings, demonstrations, hunger-strikes erupted in response. The students in Saigon and Hue declared they thoroughly "boycotted" the military training courses which would turn them into "cannon-fodder" for the Yankees; destroyed all files and records of services in charge of students' military training, held "protest" rallies to denounce the heinous crime at Con Son, Thieu, Dac... condemned the present war against the Vietnamese victims in Cambodia, and the economic and financial policy of the US and its quislings, cause of the current perturbation in the life of townspeople.

Most dramatic was the July 11 angry meeting and street demonstration by thousands of Saigon students in front of the "Independence Palace", the US Embassy and in the "Lower House" building, with slogans urging peace and an end to the US aggression war. The uproar resounded all over Saigon. A foreign peace delegation composed of religious personalities and students from the US, Australia, New Zealand, the Netherlands, and the Philippines, including the chairman of US Viet Nam Mobilization Committee, Pastor Moore, also applied for a protest. At the meeting, an American students' representative set fire to US draft cards amidst shouts of "Long live peace!", "Down with Nixon!"

ACTIONS BY WORKERS AND TOILING PEOPLES...

EARLY this year, over 7,000 workers of 118 Saigon-based organizations in sympathy with the bus drivers. This strike crippled all activities in the city and forced some enemy concessions to the drivers.

In January, February and

ferred with US military operations.

This year, in Saigon, Hue, Can Tho, Da Nang, Qui Nhon, My Tho, Ben Tre, the workers strikingly commemorated May Day. They held meetings and teach-ins, put up slogans and posters, hosted RVN flag and distributed leaflets attacking the US and the puppet regime. In the sacking of Dam Si Hien, the puppet "Minister of Labour."

Of late over 100,000 workers and employees affiliated to 124 TU organizations in Saigon-Cholon, Gia Dinh, and a general strike in protest against the arbitrary dismissal of 263 workers of the Thieu Duc warehouse.

Noteworthy is the fact that since early this year, the workers' claim for vital rights and for work has been constantly associated with that of peace and an end to the US war of aggression.

ACTIONS BY OTHER SOCIAL SECTIONS

THE Buddhists' dissent launched since May has been assuming growing dimensions and intensity and is rated by the Western press as a "nationwide character."

On the occasion of Buddha's birthday, they held meetings, petitions for Vietnamese residents murdered by the Lon Nol-Matak clique in Cambodia, demonstrations against the US-quieting measures of one hundred Buddhists at the Saigon "Viet Nam Quoc Tu", and against Thieu's plan to use the Buddhists to sabotage the Buddhist movement. Two boxes immolated themselves; thousands of others in Saigon, Hue, Da Nang and other towns staged hunger-strikes, and hundreds of Buddhists in the streets

demanded the end of the Thien-Ky-Khiem regime and US aggression for the re-establishment of peace, and an end to the Viet Nam war.

Pressmen wrote articles denouncing the crack-down on journalists and ranking

of the press; they also denounced the rotten puppet regime and cast in their lot with dissenting students, Buddhists and puppet war invalids. They protested against the puppet regime's aggression of Cambodia and reported on the gravity of the economic and social situation in South Viet Nam urban centres.

Thousands of puppet war invalids from Binh Duong (Thu Dau Mot), Vung Tau, My Tho marched on Saigon and together with their mates in that big city, broke into the "National Assembly" and a general strike in protest against the arbitrary dismissal of 263 workers of the Thieu Duc warehouse.

The intellectual circles in Saigon also battled for freedom of artistic creation and against the import of pornographic books, periodicals and films; businessmen pressed for restriction of imports and help for home industry.

The implementation of the US "Vietnamization" had hit all urban strata including a number of MPs, army officers, high-ranking officials, the mainstay of the regime. It has touched off a democratic movement which has been gathering into a storm over the head of the enemy in South Viet Nam towns and cities.

Progressing in the right direction, it will certainly contribute to the victory of the national effort against the US and for national salvation.

Pressmen wrote articles denouncing the crack-down on journalists and ranking

South Viet Nam

HILL 935, a New A-Bia for US Troops

THE US Command was forced to have on July 23 its "Ripcord" base, located on Hill 935, 40 kilometers west of Hue, evacuated by 101st Airborne Division after 24 days and nights under continuous PLAF fire. US toll was disastrous: 1,700 officers and men put out of action, 97 aircraft and choppers downed or wrecked on the ground, 16 heavy guns and one radar station blasted out of commission, a great quantity of materials destroyed. The 3rd Brigade of the 101st Airborne Division was seriously battered: 3 battalions knocked out or decimated, which means 13 infantry and artillery companies and one battalion CPs wiped out.

This was the most dramatic PLAF exploit since the Tet 1968 assaults on Hue.

It was also the most severe punishment meted out to the US 101st Airborne Division since its arrival in the area (over a year) to strengthen US defense and put the so-called "preventive defense" plan into practice.

Western agencies revealed that the losses sustained by US troops on Hill 935 were heavier than those suffered in A-Bia in May 1969.

From A-Bia to Hill 935, US troops experienced an "escalation" in their casualties. Their "preventive defense" tactics once more came to a flop. As a mainstay of puppet troops in the "Vietnamization" program, the 101st Airborne Division lamentably failed: during the last three months the 54th Regiment of the puppet army stationed in Hue came under devast-

tating PLAF attacks especially at Khe Sanh, Co Tien, etc.

While the American and puppet soldiers were successively whittled down on the outward defense perimeter, their sanctuaries in the plains and around Hue city were not immune either. Since early this month, regular and regional forces together with PLAF guerrillas have inflicted heavy losses in human lives and materials on the bases of the US 101st Division, the puppet First Division in Dong Lam, Bich Thien, La Vang, Xuoc Du, Van Thanh, Tan Ba, Mang Ca, My Thuy, etc.

US Hill 935 disaster was a vivid illustration of PLAF capacity of mounting many simultaneous and highly effective operations.



PLAF men attacking an enemy position

GUERRILLAS AND REGIONAL FORCES MORE ACTIVE

TRA VINH: An enemy "pacification" team attacked at Tam Ngai, and suffered 50 casualties (night of July 16).

Many adverse positions assailed and pounded: over 100 troops wiped out; 3 choppers downed and 1 vehicle destroyed (July 7-13).

VINH LONG: 65 enemy troops knocked out; 2 helicopters grounded; a great quantity of weapons, ammunition and other military equipment captured (July 14 and 15).

BACH GIA: A "pacification agent" unit mown down at Thanh Hung village: only 1 survivor (night of July 4).

CAM THO: 60 men from a "civil guard" companies put out of action at Vinh Thanh village (July 30).

QUANG NAM: Over 100 adverse casualties; 5 armored cars, one gun and a dozen of blockhouses wrecked; a lot of weapons and ammunition seized (July 4-9).

QUANG NGAI: American troops backing puppet soldiers in their "mop-up" in the environs of Nui Tron repeatedly assaulted: nearly 70 GIs knocked out; 5 vehicles damaged and one aircraft shot down (July 5-7).

IN THE UNITED STATES

* A "HOT" SUMMER HAS BEGUN

FOR the last few days a series of actions has been mounted by the Black and the coloured people in the United States, which has raised in American public opinion apprehensions of a "hot" summer.

In Asbury Park city thousands of Afro-Americans poured into the streets for three days on end (July 5 to 7) for the right to live and against oppression and racial segregation. They put forth twenty fundamental and urgent claims concerning employment, wage-lift, better housing and recreation places for Black people and liquidation of racialism, etc. The Governor of New Jersey declared martial law and called in hundreds of para-troopers and policemen. The demonstrators fought back valiantly, upset numerous vehicles and set fire to segregationists' houses. On July 5 Black youth "deployed their forces" (AFP) and resisted the para-troops all day long and in the end drove them out of their ghettos.

On the night of July 11 fierce clashes between the Black people and the coppers took place in Michigan city (Indiana) and New Bedford (Massachusetts). Afro-Americans in New Brunswick from July 21 to 23 protested repression, terror and racialism. In Florida, they revolted against policemen's ill-treatment of two Black women. Violent clashes between constables and Blacks

happened on the nights of July 23 and 24 and curfew was consequently imposed on the city. In Cairo (Illinois) similar incidents occurred. In Houston (Texas) the authorities from July 25 to 27 unwarrantedly cracked down on Afro-Americans and shot dead one of their leaders, Carl Hampton. The Black militants returned an angry fire at the police and set ablaze one of their cars.

On July 16 in Los Angeles policemen were sent to ransack the living quarters of American citizens of Mexican origin and killed two of them. The rest held requiem for the victims and strongly protested the murder. In West Chester, when an American citizen of Puerto Rico origin was cut down by policemen 400 others, mostly Puerto Ricans, staged a protest demonstration. They were met with force and 23 of them were arrested.

Newsweek sent its correspondents to the Black ghettos in fifty cities for investigation and came to the conclusion that the 1970 summer was as "hot" as the previous ones. The magazine has also revealed that the Blacks expected nothing from the present US administration. All this throws light on the racial discrimination, terrorism and repression of Mr Nixon and such "hardliners" in his administration as Agnew, Mitchell, etc., ones that the American press usually refers to as "segregationists."

* MASSACHUSETTS URGES U.S. WAR IN VIET NAM BE DECLARED UNCONSTITUTIONAL

THE State of Massachusetts on June 21 urged the US Supreme Court to declare that the US war in Viet Nam is "unconstitutionally" Western sources said.

In a suit that name Secretary of Defence Melvin Laird as "defendant," the State said that the Executive of the Federal Government was acting illegally in committing American troops to the war and that short of a declaration of war by Congress, the President was acting unconstitutionally when he sent GIs to Viet Nam to fight.

The impeachment noted that when it joined the union Massachusetts the United States had renounced its own sovereign right to conduct foreign

relations and make war in exchange for an assurance that the nation as a whole would take part in wars only after a formal declaration by Congress, and that war-making powers could be exercised only by Congress. Therefore, Massachusetts must have a peaceful forum to present its case and to have the controversy settled.

The suit was filed by Massachusetts Attorney General Robert Quinn in response to a measure enacted by the Massachusetts legislature in April. It stressed that the undeclared war of the US Federal Government in Viet Nam was "unconstitutional," and recognised the right of Massachusetts citizens to refuse to take part in it.